

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for selecting the sources of at least two shows capable of
2 being received and displayed by an entertainment system, comprising:
3 selecting for viewing, a first show associated with a first channel from a
4 first source;
5 displaying the first show;
6 selecting for viewing, a second show associated with a second channel
7 from any one of the first and a second sources; and
8 displaying the second show.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first source is selected from a
2 group consisting of: a satellite-based station, a cable-based station and a local
3 station.

1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said second source is selected from
2 a group consisting of: a satellite-based station, a cable-based station and a local
3 station, said second source being different from said first source.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

2 loading programming data associated with the selected first channel of the
3 first show into a memory of the entertainment system; and
4 loading programming data associated with the selected second channel of
5 the second show into the memory of the entertainment system.

1 5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising:
2 prompting selection of the first and the second shows corresponding to the
3 first and the second channels, by executing software by a central processing unit,
4 implemented within the entertainment system, to produce a screen menu; and
5 wherein the step of selecting comprises selecting a first option grid of the screen
6 menu to load the corresponding programming data into the memory and
7 selecting a second option grid of the screen menu to load the corresponding
8 programming data into the memory.

1 6. A method for selecting the sources of at least two shows capable of
2 being received and displayed by an entertainment system, comprising:
3 selecting for viewing, a first show associated with a first channel from a
4 first source;
5 displaying the first show on a first portion of a display screen;
6 selecting for viewing, a second show associated with a second channel
7 from any one of the first and a second sources; and
8 simultaneously displaying the second show on a second portion of the
9 display screen.

1 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the first source transmits broadcast
2 signals associated with the first show using a first coding technique.

1 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the second source transmits
2 broadcast signals associated with the second show using a second coding
3 technique that is different from the first coding technique.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the first and second coding
2 techniques are selected from a group consisting of: amplitude modulation,
3 frequency modulation and phase modulation.

1 10. The method of Claim 6, wherein said first source is selected from a
2 group consisting of: a satellite-based station, a cable-based station and a local
3 station.

1 11. The method of Claim 7, wherein said second source is selected from
2 a group consisting of: a satellite-based station, a cable-based station and a local
3 station, said second source being different from said first source.

1 12. The method of Claim 6, further comprising:
2 loading programming data associated with the selected first channel of the
3 first show into a memory of the entertainment system; and
4 loading programming data associated with the selected second channel of
5 the second show into the memory of the entertainment system.

1 13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising:
2 prompting selection of the first and the second shows corresponding to the
3 first and the second channels, by executing software by a central processing unit,
4 implemented within the entertainment system, to produce a screen menu; and
5 wherein the step of selecting comprises selecting a first option grid of the screen
6 menu to load the corresponding programming data into the memory and
7 selecting a second option grid of the screen menu to load the corresponding
8 programming data into the memory.

1 14. The method of Claim 7, further comprising recording of one of said
2 first and said second shows.

1 15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising recording of the other
2 one of said first and said second shows.

1 16. An entertainment system comprising:
2 a display monitor; and
3 a broadcast receiver coupled to the display monitor, the broadcast receiver
4 including
5 a first front-end unit capable of receiving programming data
6 associated with a first show broadcast from a first source via a first channel
7 for viewing on the display monitor,
8 a second front-end unit capable of receiving programming data
9 associated with a second show broadcast from a second source via a second
10 channel for viewing on the display monitor,
11 a plurality of memory elements, and
12 a central processing unit coupled to the plurality of memory
13 elements, the central processing unit executing software to assist the
14 broadcast receiver in loading programming data associated with a selected
15 one of the first and the second shows into one of the plurality of memory
16 elements along with information, to display said first show on the display
17 monitor upon receiving a first selection signal, and to display said second
18 show on the display monitor upon receiving a second selection signal, the
19 first and second shows being displayed continuously.

1 17. The entertainment system of claim 16, wherein the display monitor
2 includes a television receiver.

1 18. The entertainment system of claim 16, wherein the broadcast
2 receiver includes an integrated receiver decoder.

1 19. The entertainment system of claim 16, wherein the central
2 processing unit of the broadcast receiver executes software to provide a screen
3 menu, selection of a first option grid of the screen menu signals the central
4 processing unit to load a first programming data into the one of the plurality of
5 memory elements indicating that the first show is to be displayed.

1 20. The entertainment system of claim 19, wherein upon selection of a
2 second option grid, the central processing unit controls loading of a second
3 programming data into the one of the plurality of memory elements indicating
4 that the second show is to be displayed.

1 21. The entertainment system of Claim 16, wherein the first source
2 transmits broadcast signals associated with the first show using a first coding
3 technique.

1 22. The entertainment system of Claim 21, wherein the second source
2 transmits broadcast signals associated with the second show using a second
3 coding technique that is different from the first coding technique.

1 23. The entertainment system of Claim 22, wherein the first and second
2 coding techniques are selected from a group consisting of: amplitude
3 modulation, frequency modulation and phase modulation.

1 24. The entertainment system of Claim 16, wherein said first source is
2 selected from a group consisting of: a satellite-based station, a cable-based station
3 and a local station.

1 25. The entertainment system of Claim 24, wherein said second source
2 is selected from a group consisting of: a satellite-based station, a cable-based
3 station and a local station, said second source being different from said first
4 source.

1 26. An entertainment system comprising:
2 a display monitor; and

3 a broadcast receiver coupled to the display monitor, the broadcast receiver
4 including

5 a first front-end unit capable of receiving programming data
6 associated with a first show broadcast from a first source for viewing on
7 the display monitor,

8 a second front-end unit capable of receiving programming data
9 associated with a second show broadcast from a second source for viewing
10 on the display monitor,

11 a plurality of memory elements, and

12 a central processing unit coupled to the plurality of memory
13 elements, the central processing unit executing software to assist the
14 broadcast receiver in loading programming data associated with a selected
15 one of the first and the second shows into one of the plurality of memory
16 elements along with information, and to simultaneously display said
17 selected first and second shows on the display monitor.

1 27. The entertainment system of claim 26, wherein the display monitor
2 includes a television receiver.

1 28. The entertainment system of claim 26, wherein the broadcast
2 receiver includes an integrated receiver decoder.

1 29. The entertainment system of claim 26, wherein the central
2 processing unit of the broadcast receiver executes software to provide a screen
3 menu, selection of a first option grid of the screen menu signals the central
4 processing unit to load a first programming data into the one of the plurality of
5 memory elements indicating that the first show is to be displayed.

1 30. The entertainment system of claim 29, wherein upon selection of a
2 second option grid, the central processing unit controls loading of a second
3 programming data into the one of the plurality of memory elements indicating
4 that the second show is to be displayed.

1 31. The entertainment system of Claim 26, wherein the first source
2 transmits broadcast signals associated with the first show using a first coding
3 technique.

1 32. The entertainment system of Claim 31, wherein the second source
2 transmits broadcast signals associated with the second show using a second
3 coding technique that is different from the first coding technique.

1 33. The entertainment system of Claim 32, wherein the first and second
2 coding techniques are selected from a group consisting of: amplitude
3 modulation, frequency modulation and phase modulation.

1 34. The entertainment system of Claim 26, wherein said first source is
2 selected from a group consisting of: a satellite-based station, a cable-based station
3 and a local station.

1 35. The entertainment system of Claim 34, wherein said second source
2 is selected from a group consisting of: a satellite-based station, a cable-based
3 station and a local station, said second source being different from said first
4 source.

1 36. The entertainment system of Claim 26, wherein the central
2 processing unit further executes software to record one of said first and said
3 second shows.

1 37. The entertainment system of Claim 36, wherein the central
2 processing unit further executes software to record the other one of said first and
3 said second shows.